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**JUL 12 2006**

**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Application of	:
Dowling et al.	:
Application No. 09/989,677	: DECISION ON PETITIONS
Filed: November 20, 2001	: UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) AND
Attorney Docket No. CKB-095.01	: UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6)

This is a decision on the petition filed January 9, 2006, which is being treated as a petition under 37 CFR §§1.78(a)(3) and 1.78 (a)(6), to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120, and 119(e) for the benefit of the prior-filed applications set forth in the concurrently filed amendment.

The petition is **Granted**.

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR §§1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) and is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR §§1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Director may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

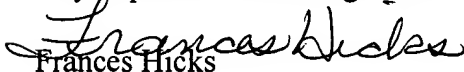
The instant nonprovisional application was pending at the time of filing of the reference to the prior-filed provisional applications as required by 37 CFR 1.78 (a)(5)(ii). Additionally the intermediate applications were filed within twelve months of the filing date of the prior-filed provisional applications, for which priority is claimed.

The petition complies with the requirements for a grantable petition under 37 CFR §§1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) in that (1) a reference to the prior-filed applications has been included in an amendment to the first sentence of the specification following the title, as provided by 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(iii); (2) the surcharge fee required by 37 CFR 1.17(t) has been submitted; and (3) the petition contains a proper statement of unintentional delay. Accordingly, having found that the instant petition for acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim for the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 119(e) to the prior-filed applications satisfies the conditions of 37 CFR §§1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6), the petition is granted.

**The granting of the petition to accept the delayed benefit claim to the prior-filed applications under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) and (a)(6) should not be construed as meaning that the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed applications. In order for the instant application to be entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed applications, all other requirements under 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(1) and (a)(2) and under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(4) and (a)(5) must be met. Similarly, the fact that the corrected Filing Receipt accompanying this decision on petition includes the prior-filed applications should not be construed as meaning that applicant is entitled to the claim for benefit of priority to the prior-filed applications noted thereon. Accordingly, the examiner will, in due course, consider this benefit claim and determine whether the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the earlier filing date.**

This application is being forwarded to the examiner of Technology Center Art Unit 2828 for consideration of applicant's entitlement to claim benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 119(e) for the benefit of the prior-filed provisional applications.

Any inquiries concerning this decision may be directed to Charlema R. Grant at (571) 272-3215.

  
Frances Hicks

Petitions Examiner  
Office of Petition

Attachment: Corrected Filing Receipt